EIGHTBALL

number two

By Daniel Clowes

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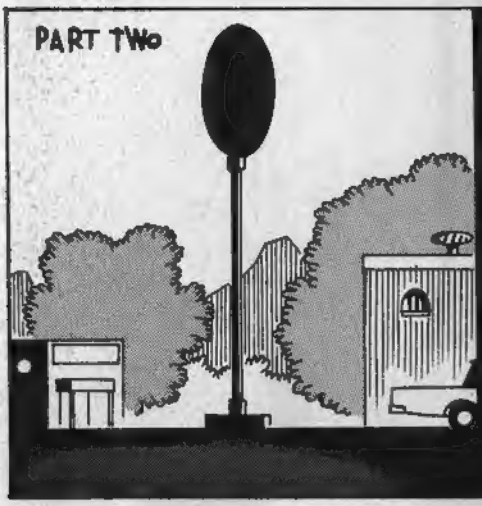
READ EIGHTBALL FOR THE BEST IN FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT!

THE TRUTH

By Daniel Clowes

Like a
Velvet Glove
cast in
Iron

Daniel Clowes



HARUM SCARUM

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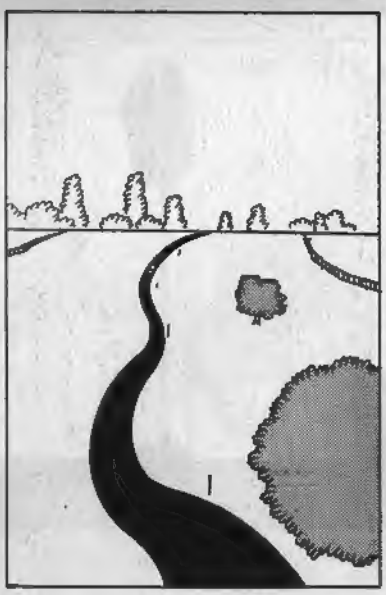
X-RATED MOVIES
the Love MOTEL
VACANCY
HOURLY RATES
POLICE

CLANK
CLANK

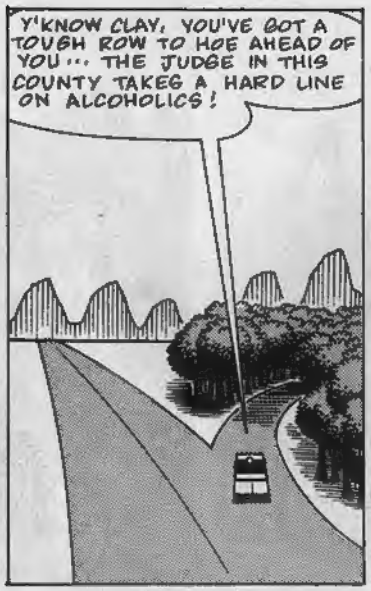
POLICE

SLEEP WELL?

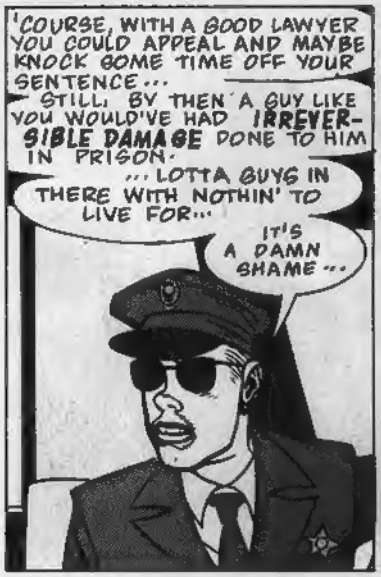
HMMM?
13
POLICE



HOW'S IT GOIN' BACK THERE, CLAY?
... Hm?


Y'KNOW CLAY, YOU'VE GOT A TOUGH ROW TO HOE AHEAD OF YOU... THE JUDGE IN THIS COUNTY TAKES A HARD LINE ON ALCOHOLICS!

LAST FELLA WE BROUGHT IN IN YOUR CONDITION GOT TEN TO LIFE AT THE BIG ROCK FARM.


'COURSE, WITH A GOOD LAWYER YOU COULD APPEAL AND MAYBE KNOCK SOME TIME OFF YOUR SENTENCE...
STILL, BY THEN A GUY LIKE YOU WOULD'VE HAD IRREVERSIBLE DAMAGE DONE TO HIM IN PRISON.
...LOTTA GUYS IN THERE WITH NOTHIN' TO LIVE FOR...
IT'S A DAMN SHAME...

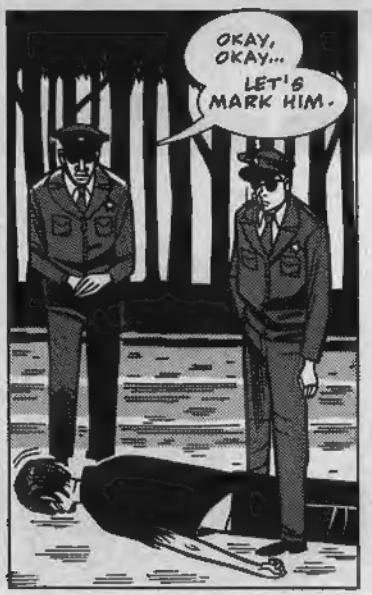
MAYBE WE COULD MAKE A DEAL...
...what?

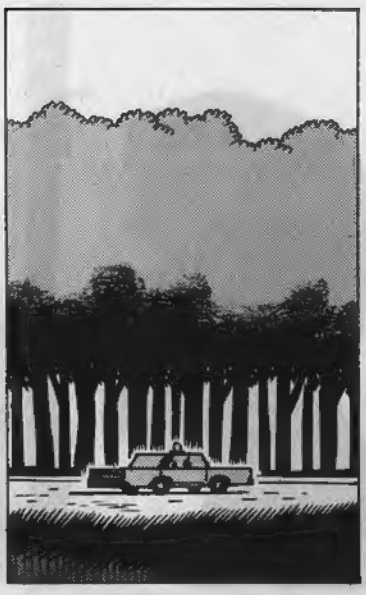
A FIGHT. YOU AND US. WIN OR LOSE WE'LL LET YOU GO.
POLICE

WHADDYA THINK, CLAY? TEN YEARS AT THE BIG ROCK OR FREE TO GO IN LESS THAN AN HOUR...

OKAY?
POLICE

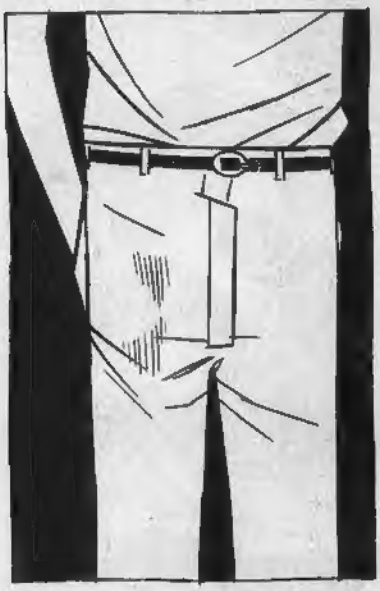
... HOLD STILL, CLAY.... THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN PROTECTION... BITE DOWN HARD!


OKAY, OKAY... LET'S MARK HIM.



JOINING THE POLICE FORCE WAS THE BEST IDEA YOU EVER HAD.
I LOVE YOU.

SHOW
SHAVED & OILED SECRETARIES
DR-BUT
SHANK
KISS MY GRITS
EROTIC LUV
Slutty GARBAGE



What do I do now? I-I... oh'h God...

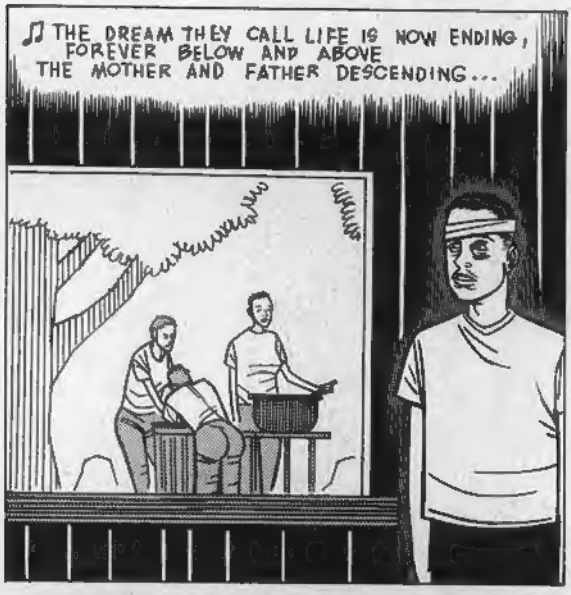
You should go outside the room... There's nothing out there. It's very interesting!

♫ WE LIVE IN THE HOUSE OF FOREVER, AS EVER BELOW AND ABOVE ...

THE HOST, THE KING AND THE FATHER, ALL IS ONE IN THE HOUSE OF LOVE ♫

♫ AWARENESS IS JUST AN ILLUSION, YOURSELF IS A HALF SPLIT IN TWO...
MIDNITE OPPORTUNIST
EXCLUSIVE: THE KING AS HE LOOKS TODAY!
DOG HOLDS UP BANK!

HAPPINESS, PAIN AND CONFUSION, ALL IS ONE, ONE IS ONE, ONE IS TWO♫


♫ THE DREAM THEY CALL LIFE IS NOW ENDING, FOREVER BELOW AND ABOVE THE MOTHER AND FATHER DESCENDING...

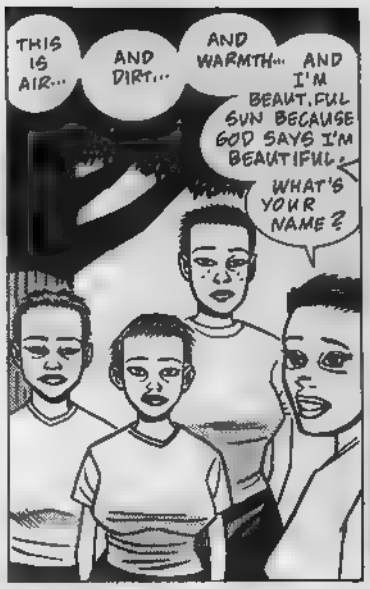
TO OUR HOME IN THE HOUSE OF LOVE ♫

HI!

...HI!
...YOU'RE AWAKE!
MAL-DORMA!

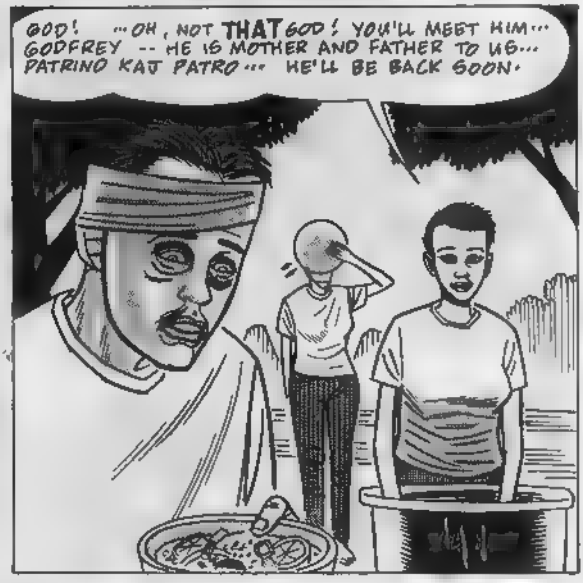
YOU'VE BEEN ASLEEP FOR SO LONG WE WERE STARTING TO GET WORRIED!
...YOU REALLY LOOK MUCH BETTER!

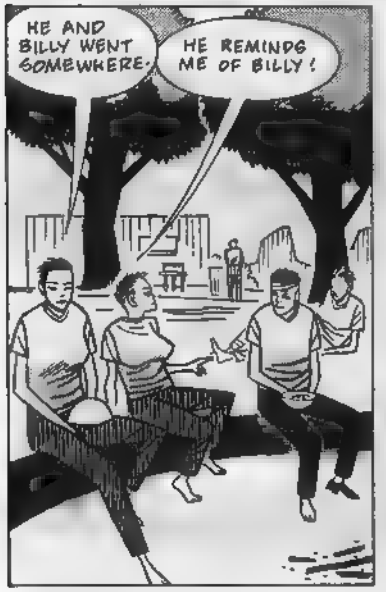
... COME OUTSIDE AND JOIN US... YOU MUST BE HUNGRY!
UH, NO, I FEEL KIND OF...
WELL YOU SHOULD EAT SOMETHING ANYWAY!
...MANGT!


THIS IS AIR...
AND DIRT...
AND WARMTH...
AND I'M BEAUT.FUL SUN BECAUSE GOD SAYS I'M BEAUTIFUL.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

CLAY.
CLAY? WHAT A MEANINGFUL NAME! GOD WILL LOVE THAT!

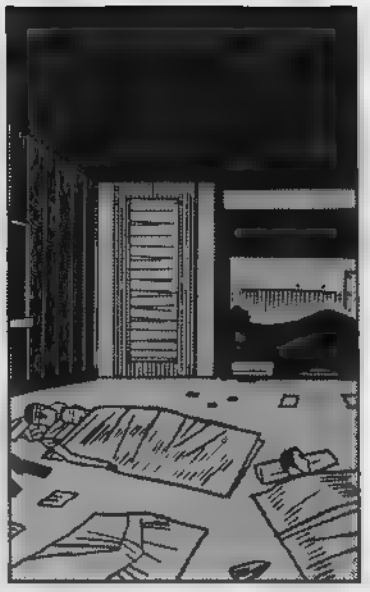
...HUH?


GOD! ...OH, NOT THAT GOD! YOU'LL MEET HIM... GODFREY -- HE IS MOTHER AND FATHER TO US... PATRINO KAJ PATRO... HE'LL BE BACK SOON.


HE AND BILLY WENT SOMEWHERE.
HE REMINDS ME OF BILLY!

D-DOES GODFREY HAVE A CAR? ...DO YOU THINK HE COULD GIVE ME A RIDE WHEN HE GETS BACK? I'VE GOT TO TRY TO FIND MY FRIEND'S CAR...

WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE LOVE TO ME, CLAY?



You've got the right idea, Chip... but what about those girls?
CLICK
--ou've got the right idea, Chip ... but what about those girls?

CLICK
--but what about those girls?
CLICK
You've got the right idea, Chip ... but what about those girls?

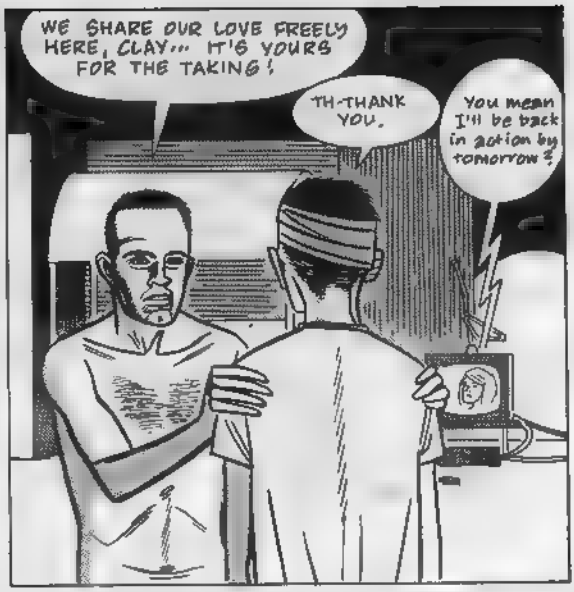
CLIC
--'ve got the right idea, Chip... but what about those girls?

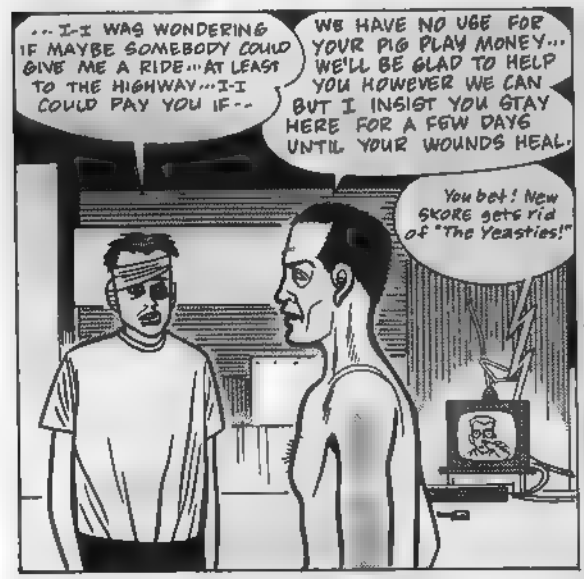
CLICK
--Chip, but what about those girls?
ZZZIP

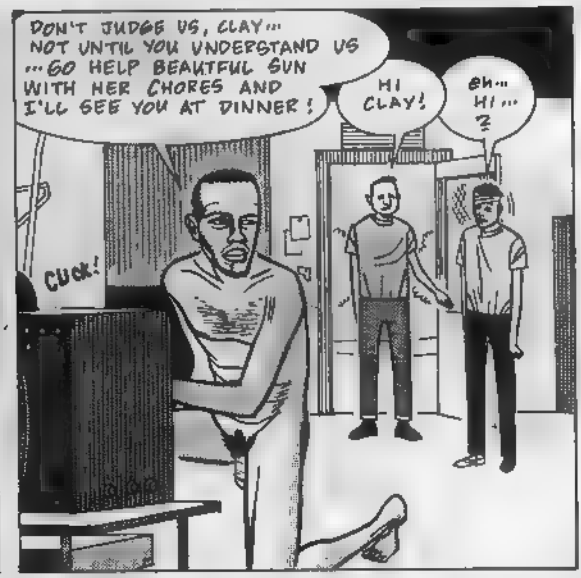
Ahh... let'em stew in their own juices for awhile!
CLICK!
Hello!

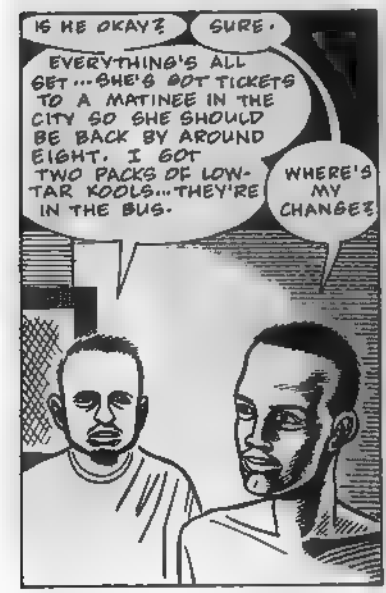
WHIRRRR
CHUNK!

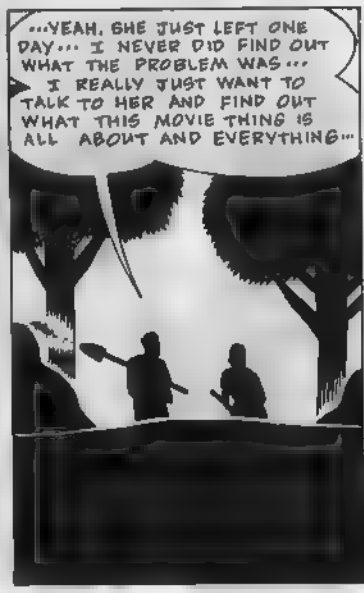
THEY TELL ME YOUR NAME IS CLAY ... WELCOME, CLAY!
--and SKORE's proven medical ingredients prevent further infection!


WE SHARE OUR LOVE FREELY HERE, CLAY... IT'S YOURS FOR THE TAKING!
TH-THANK YOU.
You mean I'll be back in action by tomorrow?


...I-I WAS WONDERING IF MAYBE SOMEBODY COULD GIVE ME A RIDE...AT LEAST TO THE HIGHWAY...I-I COULD PAY YOU IF--
WE HAVE NO USE FOR YOUR PIG PLAY MONEY... WE'LL BE GLAD TO HELP YOU HOWEVER WE CAN BUT I INSIST YOU STAY HERE FOR A FEW DAYS UNTIL YOUR WOUNDS HEAL.
You bet! New SKORE gets rid of "The Yeasties!"


DON'T JUDGE US, CLAY... NOT UNTIL YOU UNDERSTAND US ...GO HELP BEAUTIFUL SUN WITH HER CHORES AND I'LL SEE YOU AT DINNER!
HI CLAY!
eh... HI...?
CLICK!


IS HE OKAY?
SURE.
EVERYTHING'S ALL SET...SHE'S GOT TICKETS TO A MATINEE IN THE CITY SO SHE SHOULD BE BACK BY AROUND EIGHT. I GOT TWO PACKS OF LOW-TAR KOOLS...THEY'RE IN THE BUS.
WHERE'S MY CHANGE?


...YEAH, SHE JUST LEFT ONE DAY... I NEVER DID FIND OUT WHAT THE PROBLEM WAS... I REALLY JUST WANT TO TALK TO HER AND FIND OUT WHAT THIS MOVIE THING IS ALL ABOUT AND EVERYTHING...

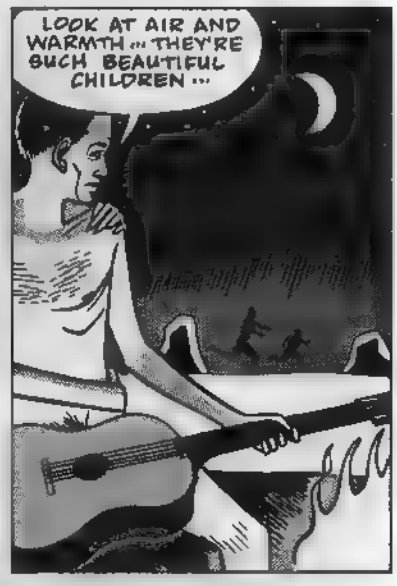
WHY WOULD ANYBODY GET MARRIED? IT'S SO PRIMITIVE. SO... YOU KNOW...
I GUESS.

I THINK ANOTHER THING THAT BOTHERS ME IS THAT I NEVER--
I CAN'T EVEN [redacted] WHEN MY FOLKS WERE MARRIED! MY DAD DIED IN PRISON AND MY MOM WAS AN ACTRESS.

THAT'S NOT A GREAT JOB IN INDIANA.
SHE USED TO BEAT ME UP AND TAKE DRUGS AND EVERYTHING.
HER BOYFRIEND USED TO WEAR MY CLOTHES WHILE I WAS AT SCHOOL.

I USED TO REALLY HATE HER BUT WHEN I MET GOD HE EXPLAINED TO ME THAT EVERYBODY HATES AND LOVES EACH OTHER AT THE SAME TIME...
MALAMI KAJ AMI!

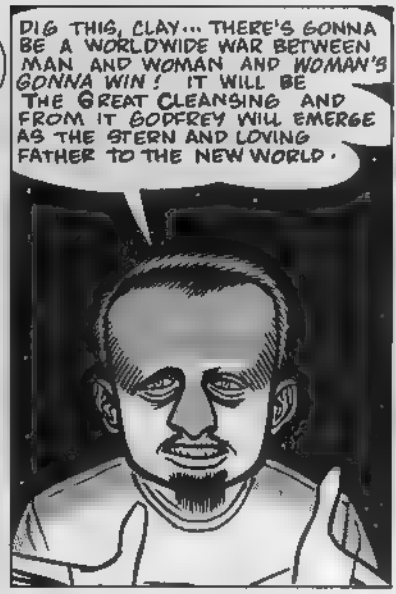
♫ THE HOUSE HAS NO WINDOWS OR DOORWAYS. ALL ENTER AND EXIT AS ONE. WE STAND ON THE THRESHOLD TO ALWAYS. FOREVER IS EVER UNDONE ♫

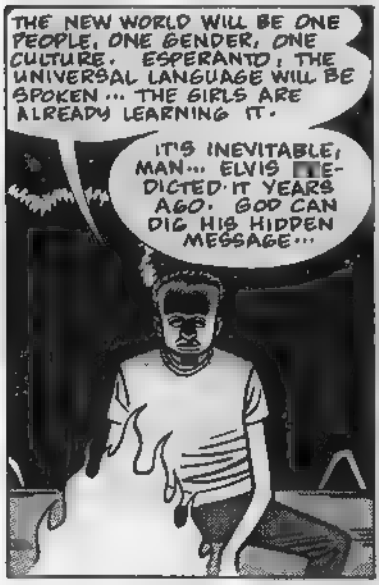

LOOK AT AIR AND WARMTH... THEY'RE SUCH BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN...

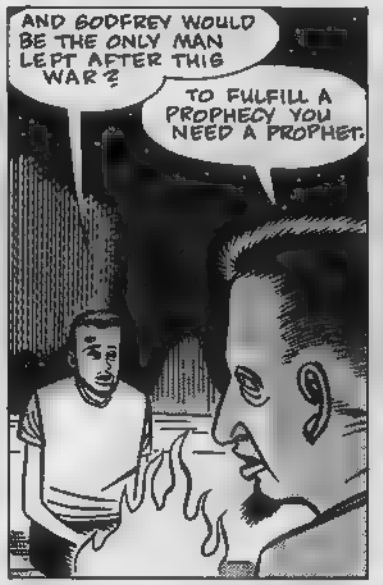
C'MON WITH US, SUN! LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN COOK UP!

.. IT'S COMING DOWN FAST, CLAY ...
AND WE'RE RIGHT IN THE SHIT!
WHAT'S THAT?

HARUM SCARUM, MAN! THE SEX WAR! THE BLOODY BATTLE BETWEEN BROTHER AND SISTER! HAVEN'T YOU PICKED UP ON ANYTHING SINCE YOU'VE BEEN HERE?
WELL, I..


DIG THIS, CLAY... THERE'S GONNA BE A WORLDWIDE WAR BETWEEN MAN AND WOMAN AND WOMAN'S GONNA WIN! IT WILL BE THE GREAT CLEANSING AND FROM IT GODFREY WILL EMERGE AS THE STERN AND LOVING FATHER TO THE NEW WORLD.


THE NEW WORLD WILL BE ONE PEOPLE, ONE GENDER, ONE CULTURE. ESPERANTO; THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE WILL BE SPOKEN ... THE GIRLS ARE ALREADY LEARNING IT.
IT'S INEVITABLE, MAN... ELVIS PRE-DICTED IT YEARS AGO. GOD CAN DIG HIS HIDDEN MESSAGE...


AND GODFREY WOULD BE THE ONLY MAN LEFT AFTER THIS WAR?
TO FULFILL A PROPHECY YOU NEED A PROPHET.

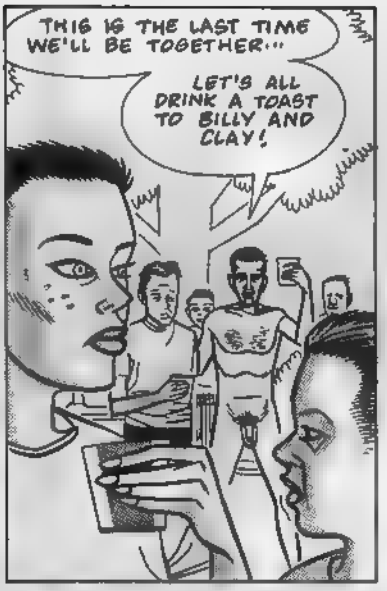
WHAT ABOUT US? YOU AND ME? WHERE DO WE END UP?
FUCK, WE'LL BE DEAD!

... WE'RE LOOKING FOR THIS MAN...

HE'S WANTED FOR MURDER!

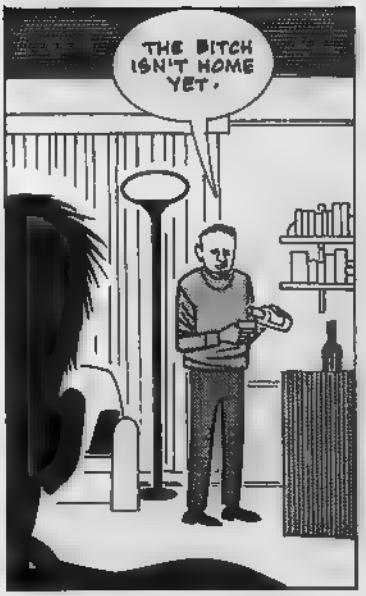
TONIGHT, AS I PROPHESIED, IS THE BEGINNING OF THE FIRST PERIOD. WE WILL HAPPILY SET THE GEARS IN MOTION TOWARD THE GREAT CLEANSING BY SPILLING THE BLOOD OF FAMOUS ADVICE COLUMNIST ANN LANDERS AND DEFILING HER SUMMER HOME WITH THE SLOGANS OF OUR CAUSE.

THINGS WILL BE MOVING VERY QUICKLY FROM NOW ON, MY CHILDREN!


THIS IS THE LAST TIME WE'LL BE TOGETHER...
LET'S ALL DRINK A TOAST TO BILLY AND CLAY!

GO AHEAD, CLAY... "DUTCH COURAGE!"
?

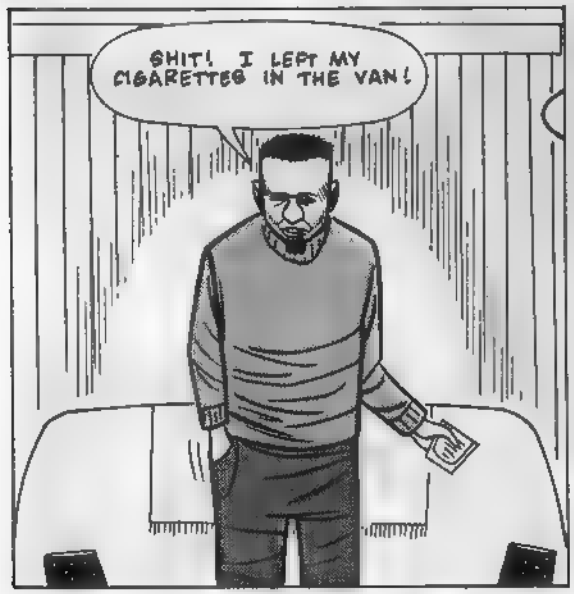
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU WOKE UP, MAN!


THE BITCH ISN'T HOME YET.

CLAY, AREN'T WE JUST ABOUT THE TWO LUCKIEST MOTHERFUCKERS IN THE WHOLE WORLD? I MEAN, MOST PEOPLE JUST DIE AND THAT'S IT... WHO CARES? BUT YOU AND ME, MAN...

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE CALLED UPON TO LIVE AND KILL AND DIE FOR SOMETHING THEY REALLY BELIEVE IN?

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL THING!


SHIT! I LEFT MY CIGARETTES IN THE VAN!

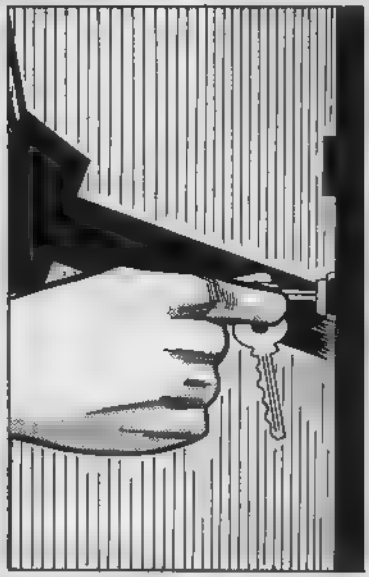
... I-I'LL GET 'EM FOR YOU...
REALLY? THANKS A LOT, MAN!

VRRR
RRRR
RRR
WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU DOING?

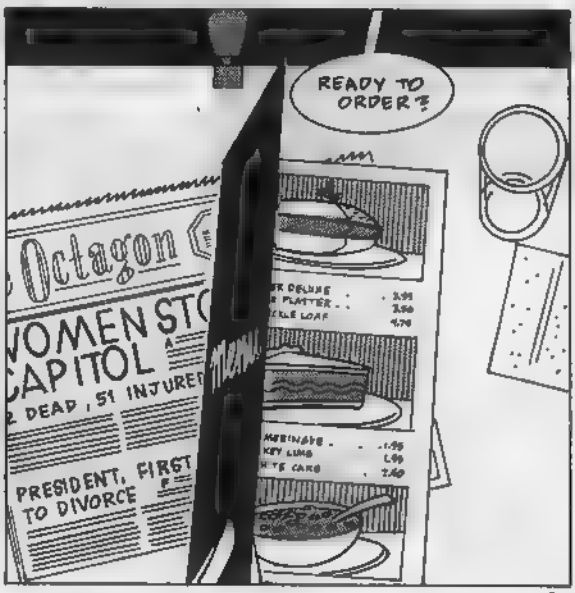
... B-BILLY SENT ME OUT... T-TO MOVE THE CAR... H-HE THOUGHT IT WAS TOO OBVIOUS...
BULLSHIT! IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE OBVIOUS!

MOTHERFUCKING MEN! YOU ALL SUCK!! YOU FUCKING SUCK! I'M SO FUCKING SICK OF YOUR STUPID SHIT!! MOTHERFUCKING ASSHOLES! COCKSUCKING MOTHERFUCKING PIGS!

WAIT HERE, I'M GONNA GO TALK TO THAT STUPID PRICK!

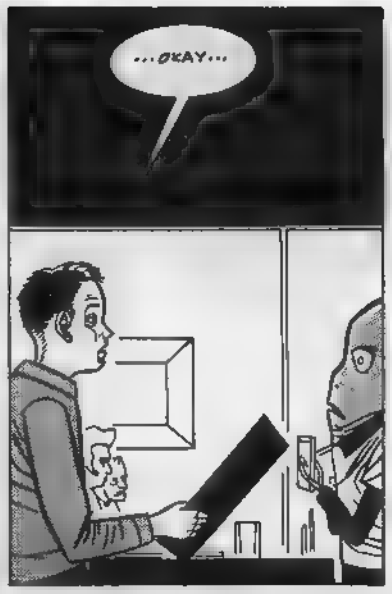


The following night...
GRIMM'S
Diner


READY TO ORDER?
Octagon
WOMEN STO
CAPITOL
2 DEAD, 51 INJURED
PRESIDENT, FIRST
TO DIVORCE

UHH... I'LL HAVE TWO EGGS OVER-EASY, RYE TOAST AND COFFEE...

POTATOES?


...OKAY...

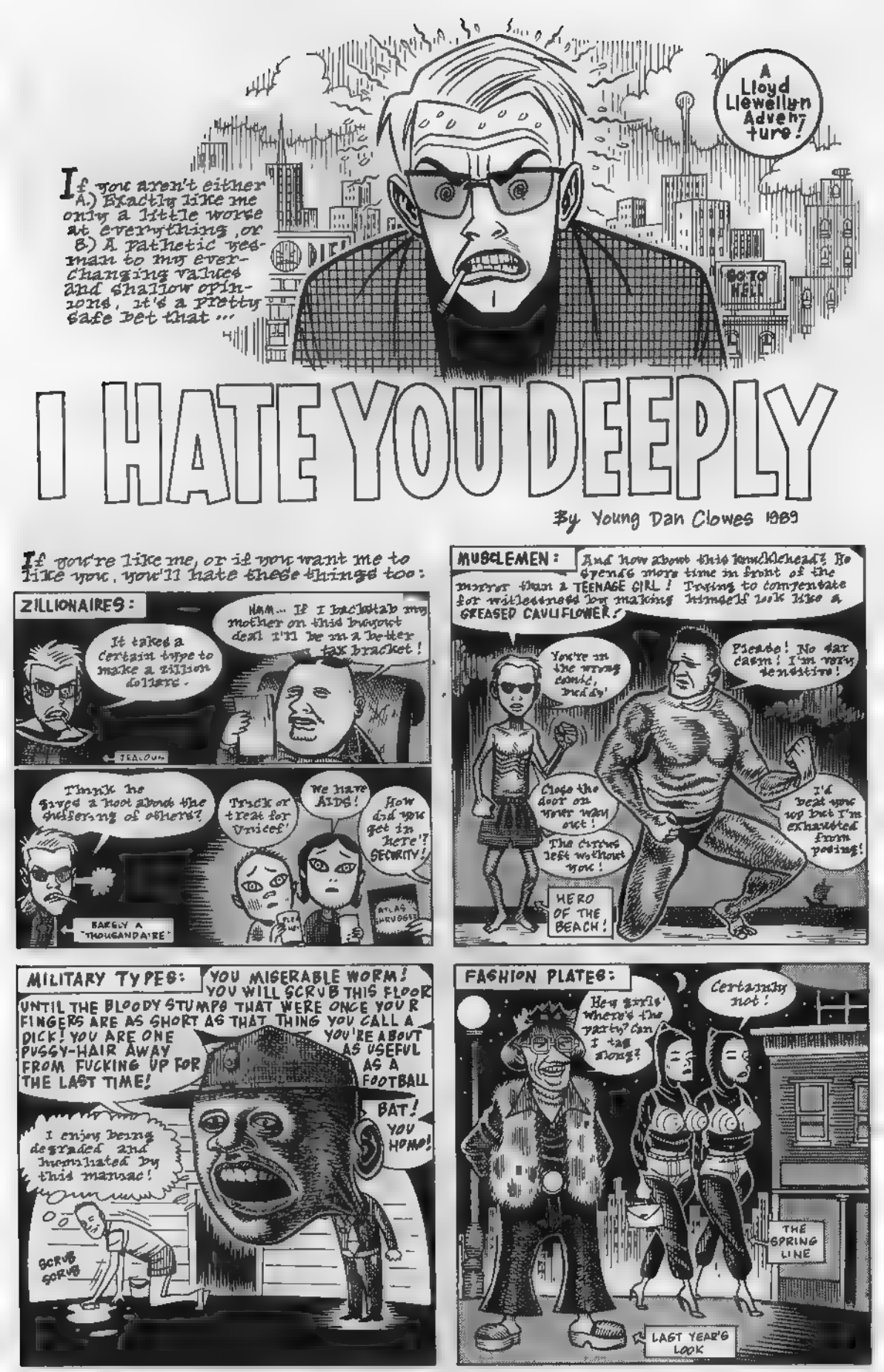
HASH BROWNS, SAGGY SOUSE OR SLAW PLATTER?

GL-- ER... HASH BROWNS...
THANK YOU!

EXCUSE ME... DO YOU KNOW WHERE THERE'S A PLACE TO STAY AROUND HERE... A MOTEL, OR--.

FUCK YOU, FAGGOT!

MISTER... MY MOTHER'S GOT A ROOM TO RENT IN HER HOUSE.
MISTER? MY MOTHER HAS A ROOM TO RENT... I COULD TAKE YOU BY TONIGHT-- I GET OFF WORK IN TWENTY MINUTES.
MISTER? ARE YOU INTERESTED?
Tina
20 minutes later
IT'S ABOUT A MILE FROM HERE... I'LL WALK AND YOU CAN DRIVE ALONG SIDE OF ME.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GET IN... IT'LL BE MUCH FASTER.
♫ TINA'S GOT A BOY-FRIEND! ♫
OH! OKAY! THANK YOU! I-IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE...
♫ THEY CALL HER FLIPPER... ♫
HAW HAW
COME IN... I'LL GET MY MOTHER. PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE.
OH GOD TINA, WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL ME FIRST?! I LOOK A FRIGHT!
SHH! MOTHER! HE'LL HEAR YOU!
TO BE CONTINUED...


A Lloyd Llewellyn Adventure!
If you aren't either A.) Exactly like me only a little worse at everything, or B.) A pathetic yes-man to my ever-changing values and shallow opinions, it's a pretty safe bet that ...
I HATE YOU DEEPLY
By Young Dan Clowes 1989
If you're like me, or if you want me to like you, you'll hate these things too:
ZILLIONAIRES:
It takes a certain type to make a zillion dollars.
HMM... If I bankrupt my mother on this buyout deal I'll be in a better tax bracket!
JEALOUS
Think he gives a hoot about the suffering of others?
BARELY A "THOUSANDAIRE"
Trick or treat for Unicef!
We have AIDS!
How did you get in here? SECURITY!
ATLAS SHRUGGED
MUSCLEMEN:
And how about this knucklehead? He spends more time in front of the mirror than a TEENAGE GIRL! Trying to compensate for witlessness by making himself look like a GREASED CAULIFLOWER!
You're in the wrong comic, buddy!
Please! No sarcasm! I'm very sensitive!
Close the door on your way out!
The circus left without you!
I'd beat you up but I'm exhausted from posing!
HERO OF THE BEACH!
MILITARY TYPES:
YOU MISERABLE WORM! YOU WILL SCRUB THIS FLOOR UNTIL THE BLOODY STUMPS THAT WERE ONCE YOUR FINGERS ARE AS SHORT AS THAT THING YOU CALL A DICK! YOU ARE ONE PUSSY-HAIR AWAY FROM FUCKING UP FOR THE LAST TIME!
YOU'RE ABOUT AS USEFUL AS A FOOTBALL BAT! YOU HOMO!
I enjoy being degraded and humiliated by this maniac!
SCRUB SCRUB
FASHION PLATES:
Hey girls! Where's the party? Can I tag along?
Certainly not!
THE SPRING LINE
LAST YEAR'S LOOK

Watered-down Nostalgia-Hounds:

This Lloyd Llewellyn comic is gear-fab!

Ginchy!

♫ LOOOVE AMERICAN STYLE ♫

Do the Hully-Gully!

♫ LIFE IS A ROCK AND THE RADIO ROLLS ME...

DONNY MOST

KIDNEY SHAPED

LAVA LIGHT

Occultists, New Agers and anyone seeking simple catch-all solutions to unanswerable questions:

I don't care because I know that Jesus is Lord!

Lowest common denominators:

KISS MY BRITS!

HAW HAW HAW HAW!

Actors, Models and/or anyone who places disproportionate importance on that kind of glorified service job:

I'm not really an asshole.. it's just part of an exercise for my Drama Workshop!

Gotta have that craft!

People who hide behind cartoon characters to espouse their unpopular opinions:

Hey Clowns!..A little gift from us LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATORS!

BANG BANG BANG

Don't worry, boss.. I'm here!

British Musicians:

♫ FE-RRY CROSS THE MERSEY ♫

Hmm. If I manage these vulgar mopes perhaps I'll stand to meet some exciting young men!

♫ MISSUS BROWN YOUVE GOT A LOVELY DAUGHTER.. ♫

BRIAN BOSTON

♫ E-LEC-TRICAL BANANA IS GONNA BE A SUD-DEN CRAZE.. ♫

I say! Let's imitate various black American R&B acts and, by virtue of our Gothy, Pseudo-satanic demeanor, fray millions and eventually become absurd, middle-aged Rock-dinosaur junkies!

Good show!

Anyone involved in Insurance, Medicine, Law or Real Estate:

I will cynically profit from your insecurity!

I will profit from your pain and weakness!

I will profit from your misery or and you in inflicting misery on others!

I will simply profit, using leacherous and reproachable tactics if it is my whim to do so!

Urban Attention-seekers:

♫ THE MOST BYOOTIFUL GIRL IN THE WORLD... ♫

BAP BAP BAP

Guys with short hair on top and long hair in back:

:Grunt:

U2

People who don't capitalize their name:

i'm modest and charmingly self-effacing, as sure as my name is felix!

AND Americans who use the "English spelling" of words to make themselves appear cultured and eccentric:

...Also, my hair is a lovely auburn colour and I have a puckish sense of humour.

...Did i mention that i was modest?

People with personality, magnetism and charisma:

♫ The most beautiful... girl in the world... ♫

Fanatics:

A: Are you Vic Tayback?

Idealists:

Even though the world appears to be headed straight down the toilet, I believe we're entering a beautiful new age of global peace in which Earth's many fascinating cultures will live together in a wonderful melting pot predicated on love, trust and sharing!

HROARK!

HOW TO FORMULATE OPINIONS:

1. Find someone you hate:

2. Wait for him/her to hold forth an opinion:

3. Form your opinion accordingly:

Here are some more people I can't stand:

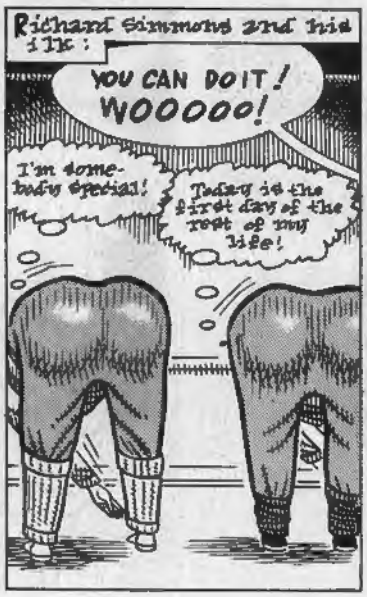
Humorless cartoonists:

Collegiate creeps:

Bothersome pests:

State-of-the-Art Techno-logical Bores:

Richard Simmons and his ilk:



Adorable Cartoon Children:

Crybabies, Whiners and Sensitive People:

I read the story "I Hate You Deeply." It was funny but, as a body-builder, I must point out that not all of us are such bad guys. It is a gross generalization to--

Is it a 'gross generalization' to hate all NAZIS? Or CHILD MOLESTERS?

Wealthy Children who attempt to buy in to the inherent "hipness" of the economic underclass:

Yo Homeboy!

whuddup?

Noisy people, crowded elevators, negative peopl--

Oh wait... those are my "turn-offs."

GIRLS: If you understand this, you are a lesbian.

Amateur Psychiatrists:

Come now, Lloyd... you don't really hate me... It's simply a matter of sublimated Oedipal conflicts that come to the surface when you feel yourself threatened or perhaps irritated by, for example, an empty-headed buffoon or a foolish, overbearing, pretentious twin.

CLIP ON

GOT A "C"

Talentless self-proclaimed "Artistes":

Pathetic fools! When I'm dead they'll be sorry they ignored me!

1500$ A MONTH "GARRET" PAID FOR BY TRUST FUND.

In fact, I guess I hate just about everybody... everybody except YOU, dear reader...

You and a small group of friends and loved ones...

BAD VIBES

And remember this: It's a proven fact that haters make the best lovers... It's a Yin/Yang kind of thing...

Ciao!

End.

PRANK PHONE CALL CONTEST

LONG DENIED IT'S RIGHTFUL PLACE AS ONE OF THE GREAT, INDIGENOUS AMERICAN ARTFORMS, THE PRANK PHONE CALL APPEARS READY TO EMERGE TRIUMPHANTLY AS A VITAL FORM OF ARTISTIC EXPRESSION FOR THE COMMUNICATION ERA. IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE THE INEVITABLE, WE (ME) HERE AT *EIGHTBALL* ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE **OFFICIAL EIGHTBALL™ PRANK PHONE CALL CONTEST!** TO BECOME A CONTESTANT ALL YOU NEED IS A TAPE RECORDER, A TELEPHONE AND A HEALTHY DISRESPECT FOR THE PRIVACY OF OTHERS!

INSTRUCTIONS: SEND A TAPE (OR SEVERAL) (ANY LENGTH BUT THE LONGER THE BETTER) OF YOUR PRANK PHONE CALLS. BE SURE TO WRITE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ON THE TAPE.

RULES: THE BEST TAPE (AS DECIDED BY ME) WINS.

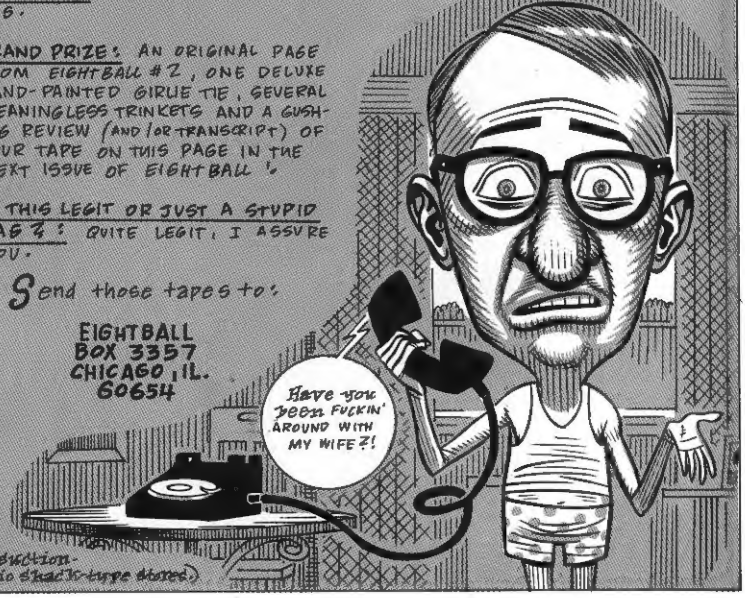
DEADLINE: THE NEXT 2 OR 3 MONTHS.

GRAND PRIZE: AN ORIGINAL PAGE FROM *EIGHTBALL #2*, ONE DELUXE HAND-PAINTED GIRLIE TIE, SEVERAL MEANINGLESS TRINKETS AND A GUSHING REVIEW (AND/OR TRANSCRIPT) OF YOUR TAPE ON THIS PAGE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF *EIGHTBALL*!

IS THIS LEGIT OR JUST A STUPID GAG?: QUITE LEGIT, I ASSURE YOU.

Send those tapes to:

EIGHTBALL
BOX 3357
CHICAGO, IL.
60654



TIP: Sound quality counts! Use a suction-cup phone mike (avail. at most Radio Shack-type stores).

THE BULGING MAILSACK

...First ish was revolting, hypnotic, offensive, etc. ...I didn't even like touching the pages... keep goin'...

Dave Stevenson
Altadena, Ca.

"...Velvet Glove" is the most terrifying love story I have ever read in any form...

Peter Hawkinson
Hau Claire, Wi.

...A fucking hellova damn good book...

David Deibow
Kent, Oh.

...A fine depressing opus of a comic...

Gilmore Tamny
Towson, Md.

...Brilliant...

Scott McCloud
Cambridge, Ma

...A masterpiece...

P. Bagge
Seattle, Wa.

...A masterpiece...

R. Crumb
Winters, Ca.

...Thank goodness there are still guys like you and Pete Bagge and ol' Bob Crumb quietly working producing comics with humor, heart and integrity...

Michael T. Gilbert
Eugene, Or.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME BUT EVERYTHING THOSE GUYS DO IS A MASTERPIECE!

...Outstanding...

C.C. Cilia
Tucson, Az.

...Sad...

Jim Conatser
Dubuque, Ia.

...Some of the girls in your mag have big butts. Do you like chicks with big butts?

Michael Spadaccini
Darien, Ct.

NO. I'M MARRIED

Dear Mr. Groth,

[NOTE: THIS ONE WAS SENT (FOR REASONS UNKNOWN) TO MEAN-SPIRITED FANTAGRAPHICS PUBLISHER GARY GROTH]

So, you've seen fit to unleash Dan Clowes on the world again, this time with *Eightball*...

I keep noticing, with this book and The Sacco's Yahoo, how so many of Fantagraphics' titles are words that can also be used to describe people who are total jerks. Talk about targeting your audience...

I'm hoping that Dan is using these stories of his to poke fun, in a good-natured way, at various aspects of day-to-day life. On the surface, that's what it looks like he's doing, and I'm hoping that that's the case, because if it's not then I haven't a clue as to what he's up to. Especially in this issue's lead-off tale, "Like a Velvet Glove Cast in Iron." The other stories in this book I can figure out (thank God) but this one I don't get at all.

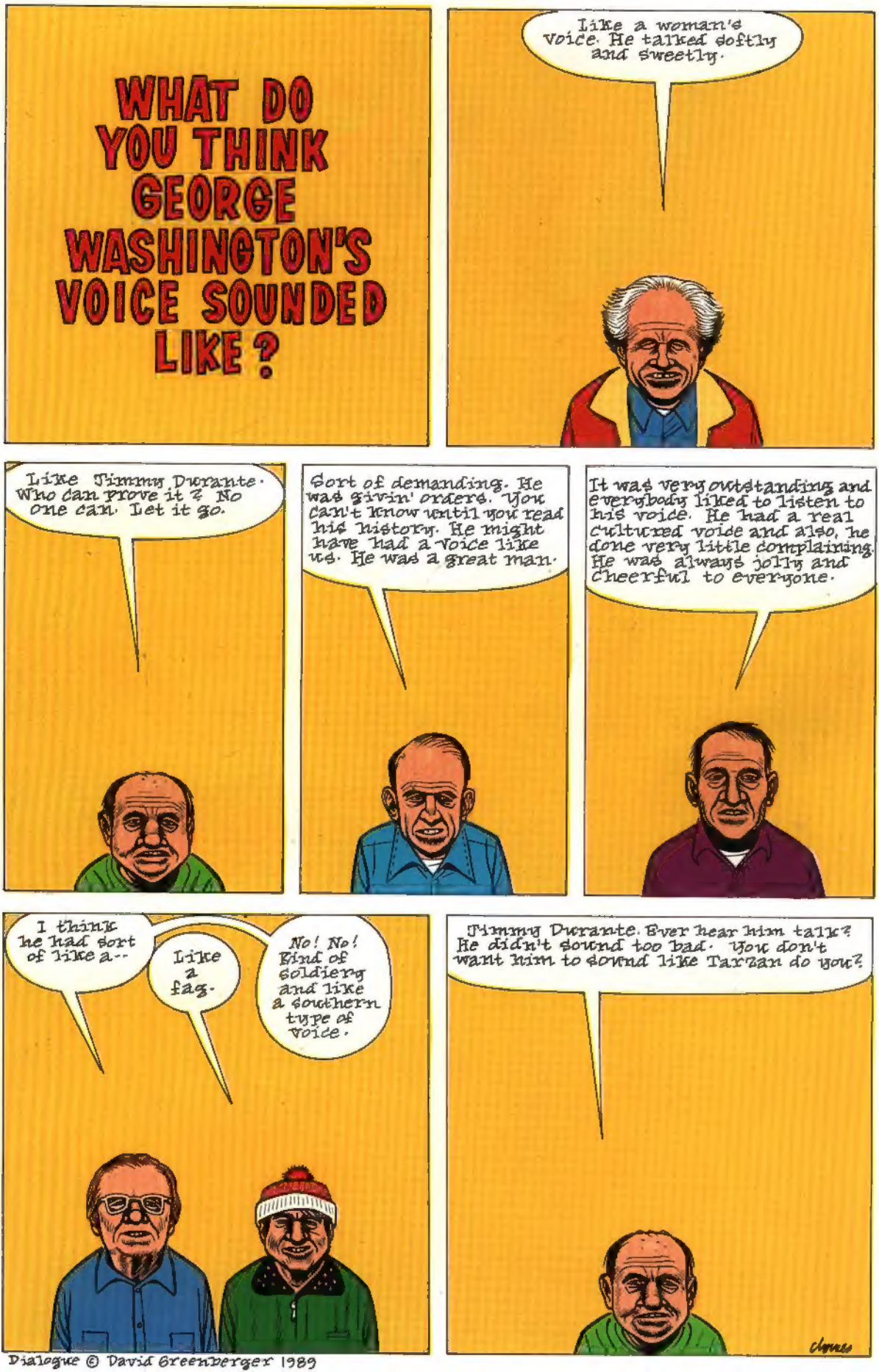
In "Devil Doll" and "Young Dan Pussey," while I understand what Dan is saying and what he's making fun of, the fact is that at no point does he come out and say, "This wrong because of this," or "I don't like this and here's why." He never shares his own opinion of what he's parodying with us. The stories read like they're just reporting on a certain type of behavior and for me, that kills any sense of drama that Dan might be trying to inject into things. I can't work up any emotion about the characters or the things they're doing, because Dan hasn't provided us with the necessary guidelines to do so. It's sort of like watching TV with the sound off; you can pretty well guess what people are up to by how they act, but you're still missing something and knowing that you're missing it makes you more unsatisfied with the work as a whole.

I guess what I'm getting around to saying is that I didn't have a good time with this one. It is a safe bet that I won't be on hand for any future issues. I'd like to be able to see the same kind of magic in Dan's work that you do but right now it just isn't in the cards. C'est la vie.

David Beattie
Concord, Ca.

Address all correspondence to:
EIGHTBALL
BOX 3357
CHICAGO, IL.
60654

NOTE NEW ADDRESS



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